STATE:

Kansas 66612

STATE

(Rev. 6-72)

1. NAME COMMON:

2. LOCATION

AND/OR HISTORIC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CATEGORY

(Check One) District XX Building

Site Structure

Object

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds

Kansas State Historical Society

Hartford 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Topeka

120 W. Tenth

CITY OR TOWN:

CLASSIFICATION

Agricultural

Educational

Entertainment

OWNER'S NAME:

CITY OR TOWN:

CITY OR TOWN:

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

CITY OR TOWN:

STREET AND NUMBER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

STREET AND NUMBER:

Commercial

Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPAR .... ENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4.

SIGNIFICANCE			
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hartford Collegiate Institute in Hartford was established in 1861 as a branch of Baker University in Baldwin to prepare students for entrance into the Methodist university. Its location was chosen by the Methodist Episcopal Conference in 1860, and a group called the Neosho Valley Educational Association of the M. E. Church first met on December 11, 1861, to make plans for the school. During the next meeting on January 2, 1862, a committee of two persons was appointed to investigate the possibility of erecting a building.

Local citizens agreed to donate funds and land, and by the spring of 1862 the institute showed contributions of cash, materials and labor amounting to \_1,530. The Hartford town company and individuals gave 1,116 acres of land in the Hartford vicinity and 294 town lots, some of which were sold to raise money for construction and later for the operating expenses of the school. The Board of Trustees made a contract with John Griffith and Richard How for the construction of the two-story limestone building. Work was to begin in July, 1862, and the building was to be completed by October, 1862. Pledges were difficult to collect, however, and by April, 1863, the walls were only one-fourth completed. The structure was finished in the fall of that year and the first classes were held October 14, 1863.

An executive committee had been appointed in August, 1862, by the Board of Trustees to prescribe courses of study, fix tuition costs and determine the opening date. Classes that would correspond to the upper two grades of high school and the first year and a half of college were desired. Solomon Lewis was the first teacher in the new building, with several others being added as the attendance increased. In 1866 Asa D. Chambers leased the institute building for ten years and in 1867 opened it as a first class academy. By 1870 there were 120 pupils, although during the period from 1865 to 1868 the school operated only under extreme hardship.

The institute had to close in 1875 because of insufficient funds, but the public school district used the lower floor of the building until 1877. Methodist church services were held in the Collegiate Institute building for approximately 20 years until 1887. The local high school met in the building 1903 to 1912. Since then it has periodically been used as a civic and social center for the community. Restoration began May 18, 1956, in preparation for the 1957 Hartford centennial. Presently the building is used as a library and civic activity center.

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Empor:	ia Times, June 10	5, 1949.				- Innan				
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Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNIT TATES P ARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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## HARTFORD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

## 8. cont.

The Hartford Collegiate Institute is the oldest building in Hartford and the oldest school building in Lyon county. It has not only been used as a college preparatory school, high school and grade school, but it has been an important center for social and religious activities as well.

### 9. cont.

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Farm 10-300a (Units 1868)